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Windows Phone 8.1 (LUMIA)

Community Group

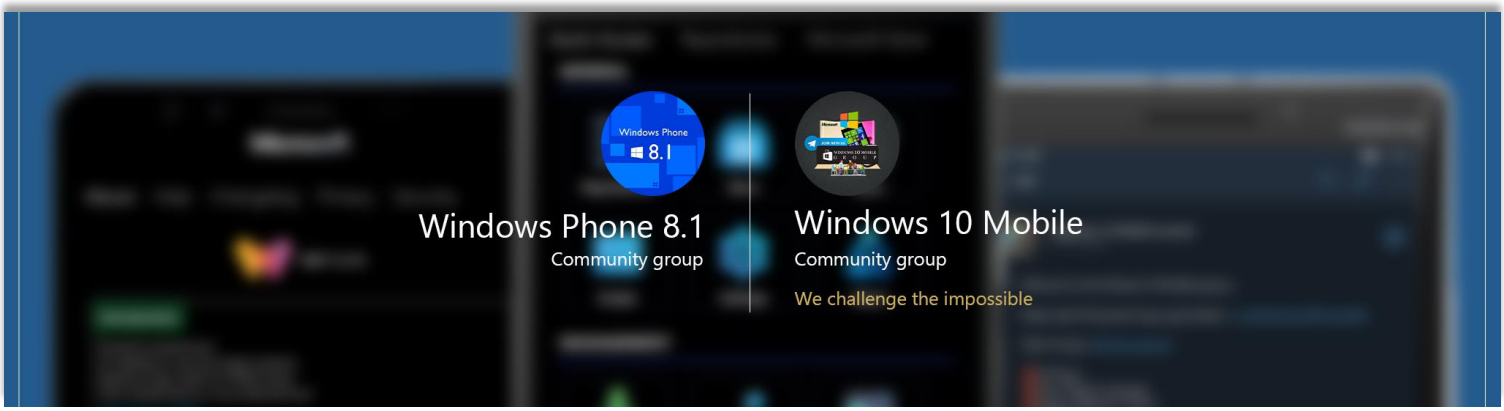
HOW TO UNINSTALL

SYSTEM APPS

FROM WINDOWS PHONE 8.1

Requirements

- Bootloader Unlocked Windows Phone 8.1 Device
- Windows PC (Recommended: Windows 8 OR above)



W10M Group YouTube Channel

YOUTUBE

Apart from these documented Guides, we have started the roll up of Video Versions of each guide in our YouTube Channel.

Don't forget to **like** and **subscribe**!

NOT AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT

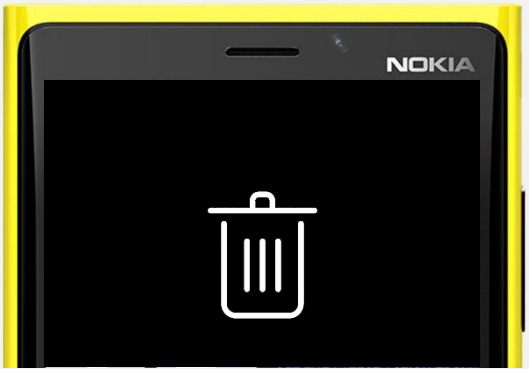
YET-TO-RELEASE

N/A

Table of Contents

UNINSTALL SYSTEM APPS

AND UPDATE THEM TO LATEST!



1) Introduction Page 04

2) Preparations Page 05

3) How to Uninstall System apps Page 06

4) Related Guides Page 10

5) End Notes Page 11

6) Credits Page 11

Introduction

Why uninstall is needed?

Since the Windows Store for Windows Phone 8.1 was shut-down back in the end of 2019, you are no longer able to update any apps of your phone.

So, you are stuck with the default system apps no matter how old they can be.

But, in this guide will show you how to uninstall & then update all the system apps as well as the latest packages of them to update!!

Anything else?

To be honest, what we do here is not exactly an uninstall :)

What we are going to do is delete the stock app's Installation packages and then hard reset the phone and once the OOBE setup reach the "App Installation" step, it will not install any of the stock apps which deleted.

Then after the Set-UP, we can sideload the latest versions of them using PC.

Any pre-requirements?

YES.

The phone bootloader must be unlocked.

And to deploy latest versions of the System apps, the phone needs to be jailbroken.

Guides to get the above done are in our repository and also in W.U.T

Preparations

> Windows Phone Internals

W.U.T | MEGA | GITHUB

> Latest stock app installation packages.

Download if you want to install the latest version after uninstalling.

W.U.T | MEGA

Before you proceed…

- All your data will be deleted during the procedure as we are doing a Hard-reset during the steps.

  So, if you want to use your phone normally, then set it up after the system apps are deleted.

- If there is a prompt from Windows stating there are “DISK ERRORS” when the phone boots to Mass Storage Mode, **DO NOT CLICK IT OR DO ANY DISK REPAIRS!!!**

DISCLAIMER

We are not responsible for any damage happens to your phone during the Process!

Do it at your own risk & follow the Guide to the letter.

How to Uninstall System apps

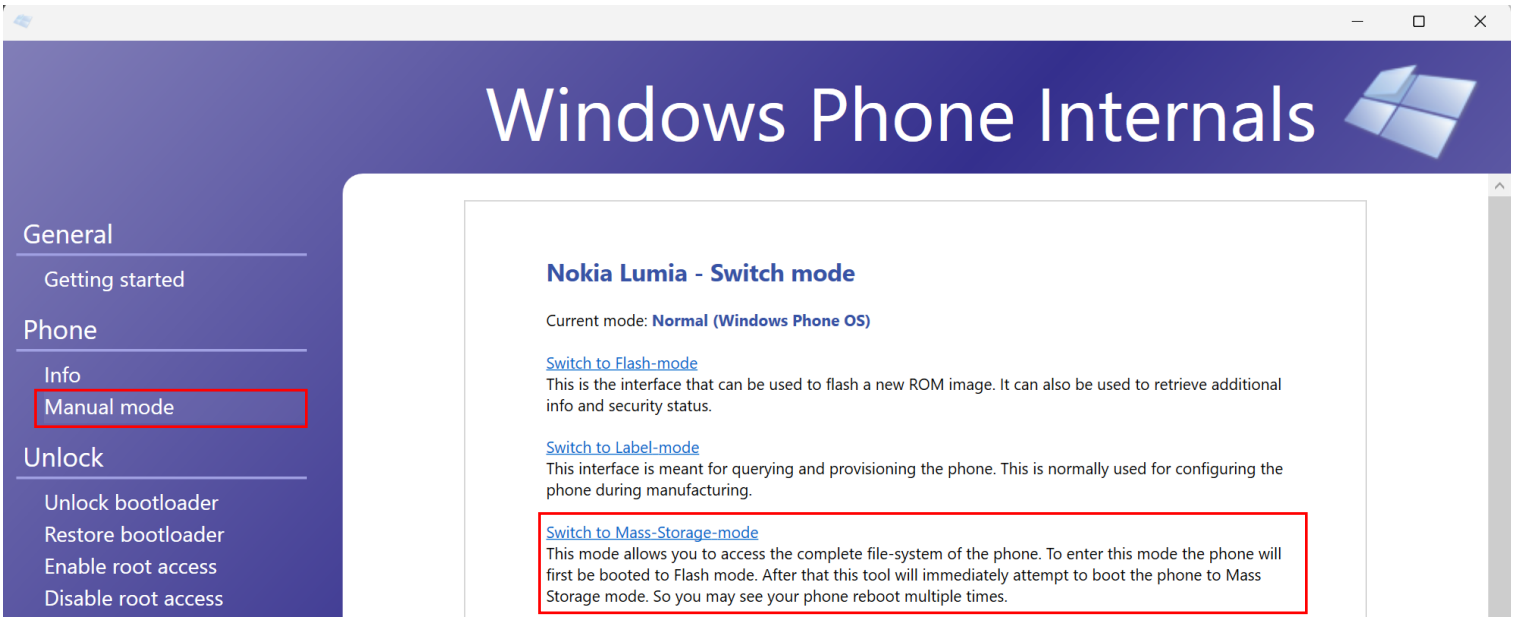
> Connect your Phone to PC via a USB Connection.

> Open Windows Phone Internals & boot your device to Mass Storage Mode

(Manual mode → Mass Storage Mode)

HINT

Your phone needs to have the bootloader unlocked in order to boot into Mass Storage Mode.



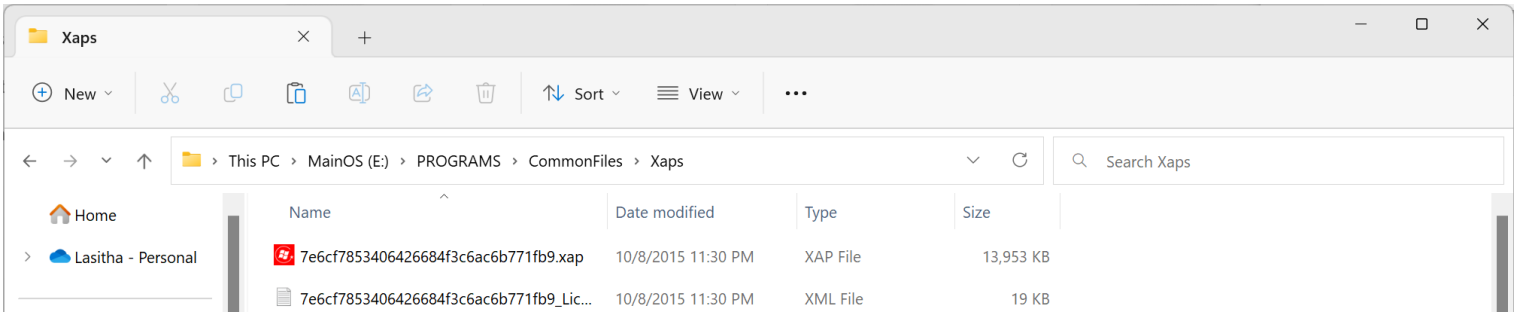
> Once your phone boot to Mass Storage Mode, go to;

MainOS → PROGRAMS → Common Files → Xaps

TIP

You will need to grant you the **permissions** to access these folders.

Do it by going to folder properties, then to Security tab and then to Advanced Settings.



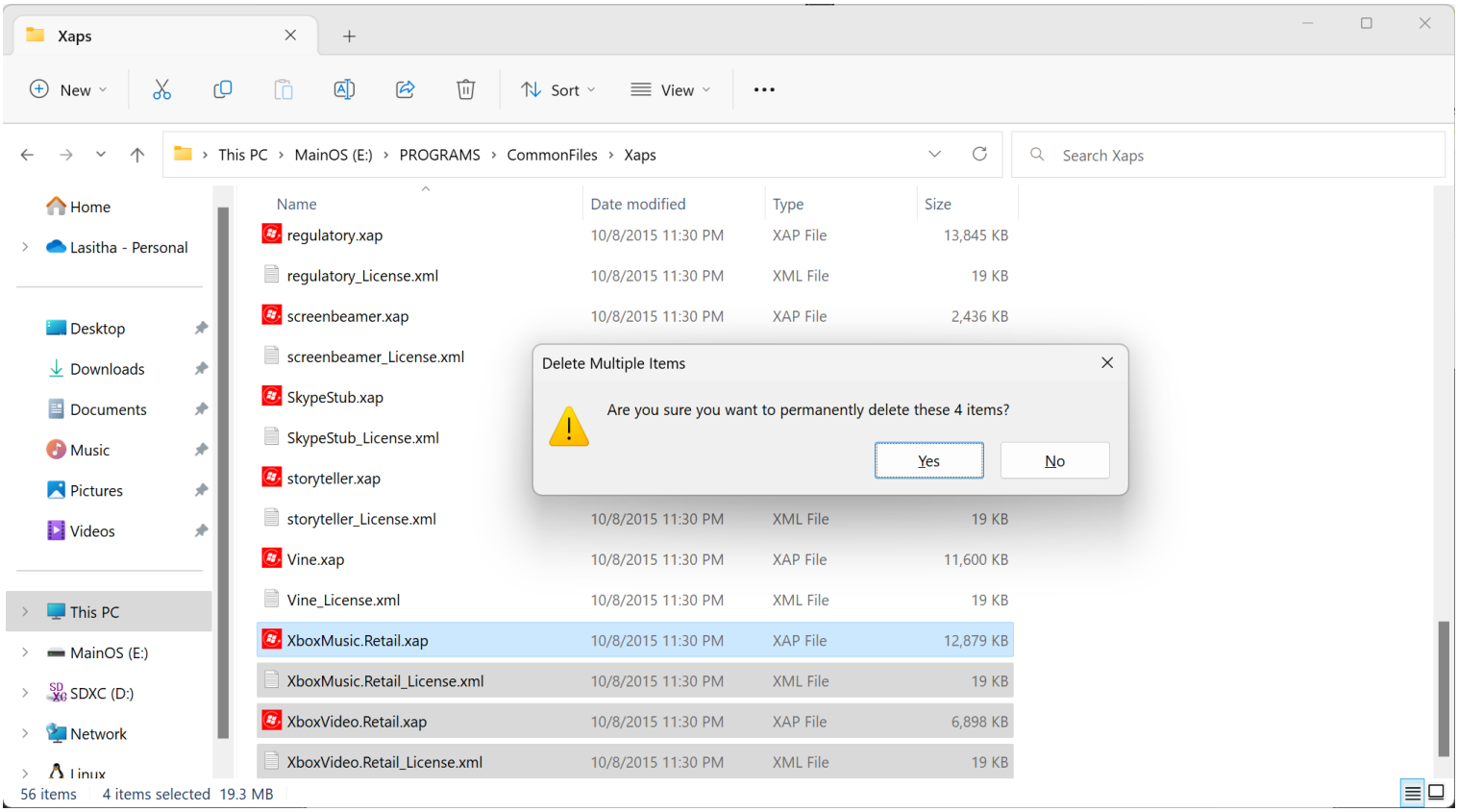
> Now find the installation package of the System app you want to uninstall and delete both the package & the XML file.

HINT

If you are having trouble finding the package identity;

You can open the XAP/APPX using WinRAR or any archiver to identify exactly what package is it.

For an instance, here I'm deleting the installation packages of the default Music & Video apps.



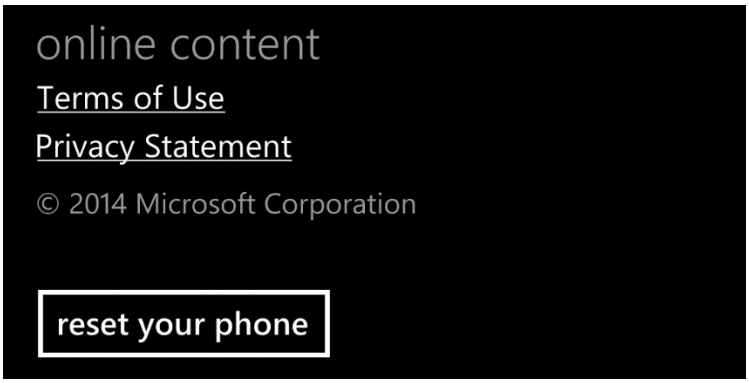
> Once you are done deleting the packages of the system apps you want to uninstall, reboot your device out of Mass Storage Mode.

How to reboot back to normal mode

When the phone is in Mass Storage mode, it also exposes a special version of the Qualcomm Emergency Download mode. That mode supports reboot-commands. But those are blocked by Mass Storage mode, so this tool is not able to reboot your phone to normal mode. But this is not a problem. To escape from Mass Storage mode you have to perform a soft-reset. Older Lumia models require you to press and hold the volume-down-button and the power-button at the same time for at least 10 seconds. New Lumia models only require to press and hold the power-button for 10 seconds. This will trigger a power-cycle and the phone will reboot. Once fully booted, the phone may show strange behavior, like complaining about mail-accounts, showing old text-messages, inability to load https-websites, etc. This is expected behavior, because the time-settings of the phone are incorrect. Just wait a few seconds for the phone to get a data-connection and have the date/time synced. After that the strange behavior will stop automatically and normal operation is resumed.

> Once you are back in the OS, go to;

Settings → About



> Then press **Reset your phone** to hard-reset the phone.

Then your phone will reboot and it will take some minutes to complete.

> Once the hard-reset is completed, your phone will boot to OOBE (Out-Of-Box-Experience) where you set-up the Language, Time & region and such things.

Complete the set-up as you usually do.

> Once all are over, you will get to the start screen.

TIP

There will be only few tiles in Start, but don't worry about it.

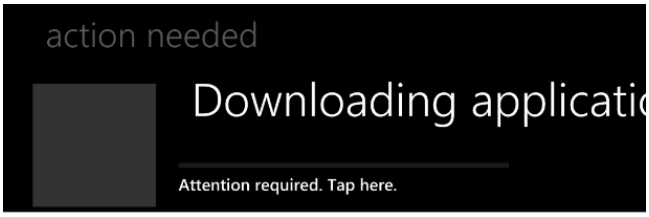
All the rest of the apps you didn't uninstall are still installed and can be accessed via the app list so you can pin it later.

> When you go to apps list, you will see one or more titles displaying **Downloading Application**

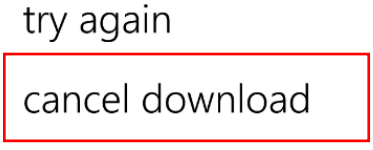
These are the apps we uninstalled, and it's trying to re-install them via Store, and since it's gone, it will never install.

> Click on any one of them and that will open Downloads page of the Windows Store.

Long press on one of them & select Cancel Download.

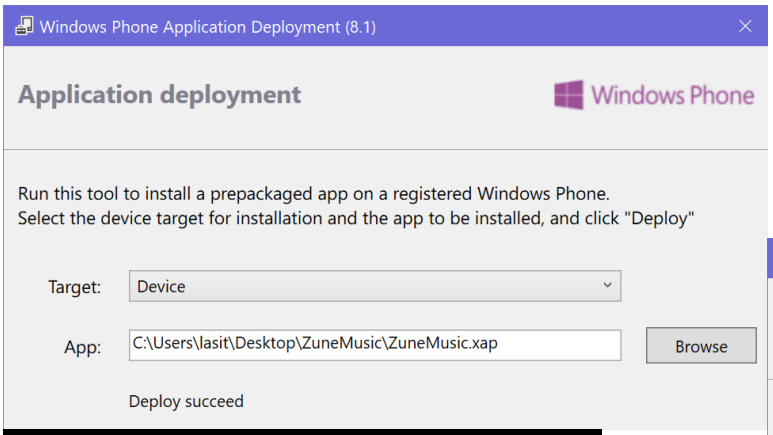


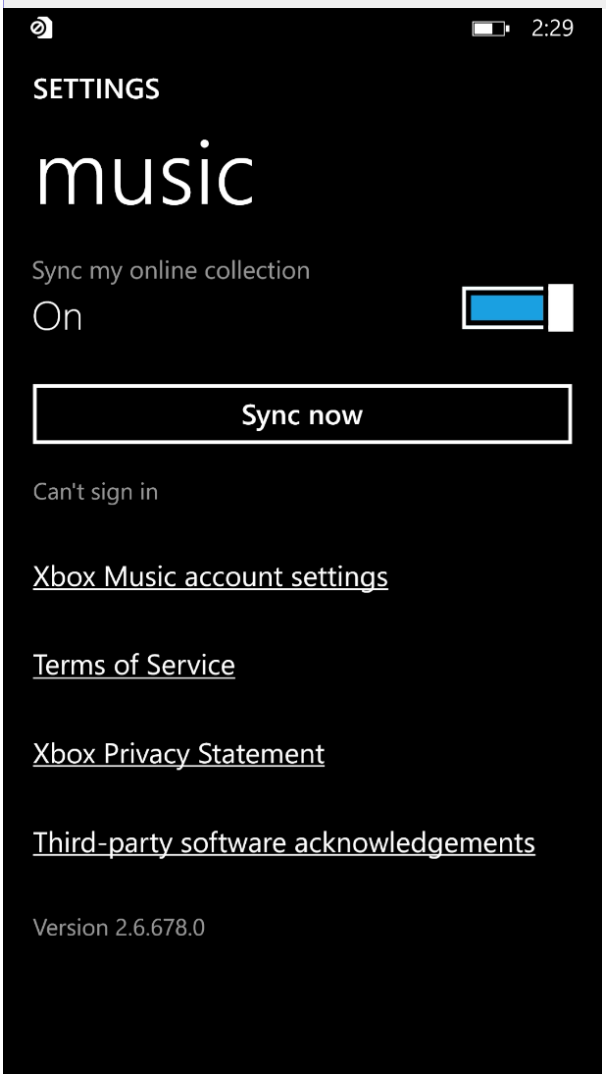
Do the same for all others.

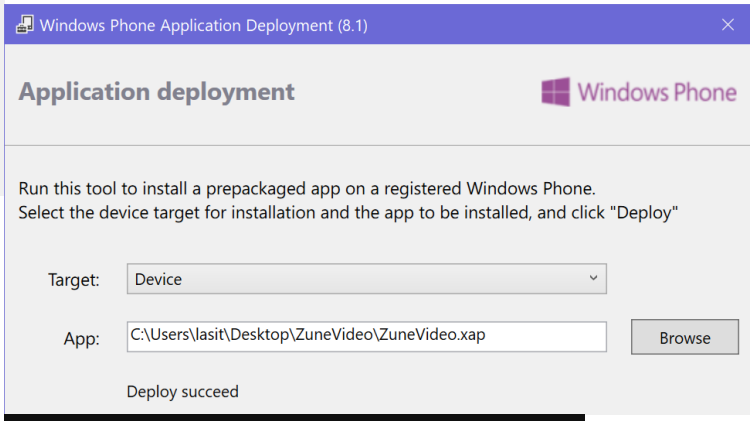


> Now, sideload the latest versions of the uninstalled apps which we downloaded in preparations.

Since I deleted Xbox Music and Xbox videos, I'm gonna Sideload the latest of those to my phone :)







Related guides

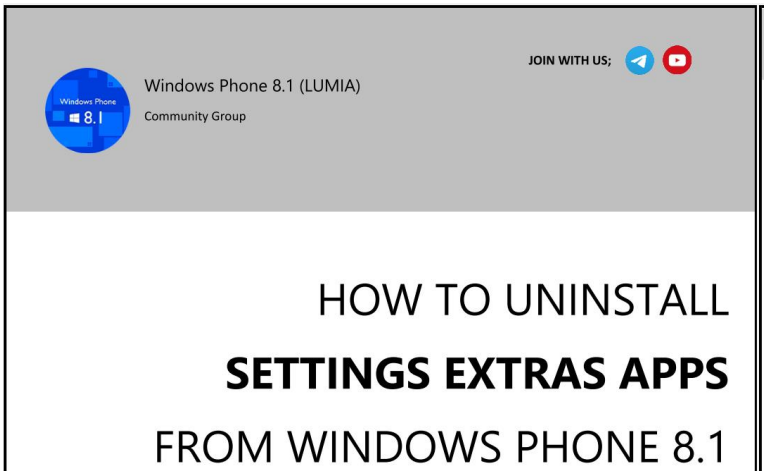
There is also another separate guide to **uninstall LUMIA Exclusive system apps** such as *Extras & Info, Touch, Lumia Motion data* and all such settings extras apps.

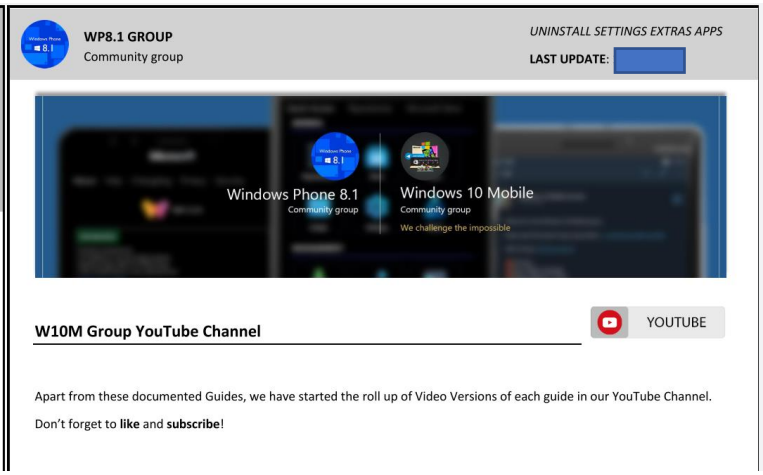
You can uninstall them using this guide too but ***that guide has a different method of uninstalling only those System Settings apps without needing the device have to be Bootloader Unlocked*** unlike the method used in here.

So, if you just want to update those Lumia Exclusive apps, then the below guide is the right one for you!

DOCUMENTED VERSION: How to Uninstall Settings Extras apps from Windows Phone 8.1

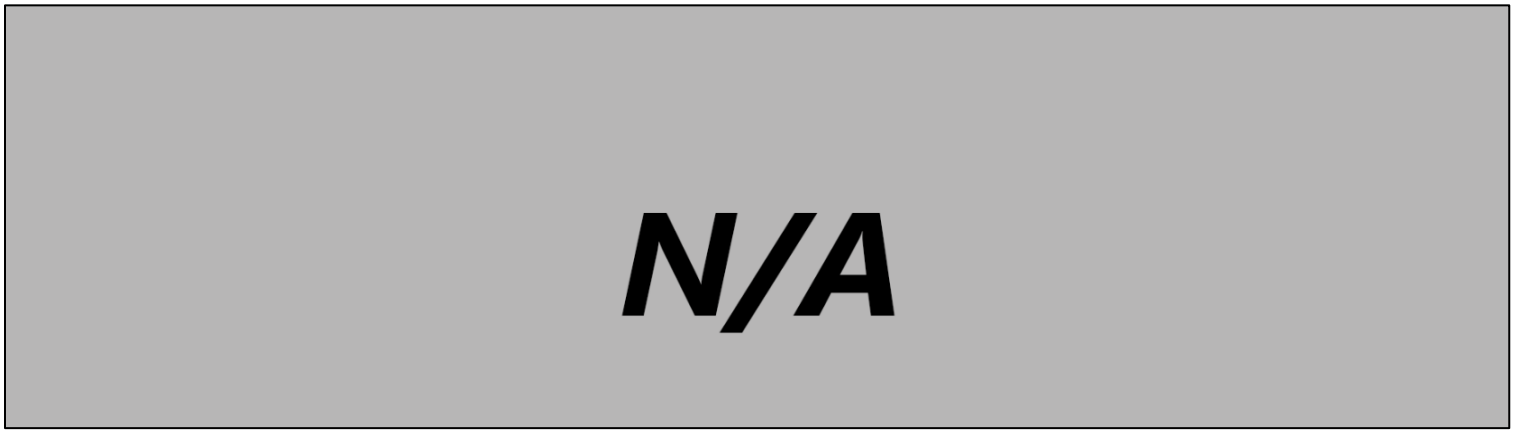
W.U.T | MEGA





VIDEO VERSION: How to Uninstall Settings Extras apps from Windows Phone 8.1

YOUTUBE



End Notes

- You need to Hard reset every time after you delete an App from "MainOS → PROGRAMS → Common Files → Xaps" folder if you already completed OOBE
- If the newer System app versions from the App repo showing **XML error (2,2)** when deploying, **repack and deploy**, that will work.

Credits

✓ Fadil Fadz for the Idea of Uninstalling System apps
✓ Anshul Singh for testing the method for the first time.

That's all for this guide!

THANK YOU!!

Lasitha Samarasinghe